

Sliced Thin by The Editor
—Alex. H. Washburn

Baseball Lights
for Fair Park
'Friends of Land'

Support for the project to install baseball lights in Fair park was voiced Tuesday night by the American Legion.

"Some years ago The Star thought it was pretty ambitious when it launched the campaign which produced the present softball lights at the park. Actually it was a modest undertaking, less than \$1,000, with the newspaper and the City of Hope underwriting the job on a 50-50 basis.

We offer our experience back yonder for whatever it is worth in today's American Legion undertaking. It was our theory that if somebody would put up the capital to install the lights the public would write off the debt with a small game admission charge. And that's what happened. The softball lights were paid for in a little over a year, and from there on admission to games was free.

The hard-ball lights, being a more powerful and expensive installation, may take longer to pay for, but the principle holds good just the same.

Ours is a sports-minded community. But to get the most out of sports you require a certain amount of plant and equipment. For football we had to build a stadium. For baseball in the small cities we have had to have a park lighted for night games — and we still need a fieldhouse for basketball and other winter sports.

This is to wish the Legion complete success in the baseball lights venture and to assure them of our whole-hearted cooperation.

A. G. Pat Mayse, publisher of the Paris (Texas) News, is sponsoring a Friends of the Land organization which draws praise from the current bulletin of the Southern Newspaper Publishers' association.

Mr. Mayse, alarmed by the decline of old countries whose land were out and whose people were reduced to the border of starvation, thinks the following figures are significant:

Only 10 of every 100 Americans now live on the farm — these 10 must furnish food for the other 90. At the rate at which we are losing cultivatable land by erosion — half a million acres a year — government estimates show that by 1970 America will be 2 million acres short of having enough land to support our present standard of eating.

Mr. Mayse says town folks ought to be thinking about this as much as farmers do.

Mr. Mayse closes with a whip-cracking line:

"We have all the land we ever have—there's not any more."

Pastors Ask
Mercy of
Slav Court

Sofia, Bulgaria, March 5 —(AP)—Bulgarian trial of 15 Protestant pastors for espionage and treason ended today after all the defendants made abject pleas for mercy and a new chance to work for the Communist-controlled government.

The court recessed at 2:05 p. m. (6:05 a. m. EST) until 3 p. m. (7:05 a. m. EST) at which time it will pass sentence.

The prosecution demanded death sentences for the four chief defendants and long prison terms—up to life—for the other 11. The main targets of both the prosecutors and the defense attorneys were American capitalism and American church missions, which got the blame for the position in which the defendants find themselves.

Defense attorneys pleaded for mercy and spoke of extenuating circumstances in their final arguments. Four of the defendants, speaking to the court for themselves, burst into tears in their final pleas.

The seventh day of the trial, which was marked by long public confessions from all the defendants obtained while they were secret prisoners of the state security police for three months. All were accused of treason, espionage and black market money dealings.

Court authorities made motion pictures of the final pleas.

The longest and most emotional was made by the man regarded as the main defendant, Vassil Georgiev Zlatkov, 40, of the congregational church. He was charged for whom the state asked the hanging penalty.

The other three who cried were Nikola Mihailov Naumov, 49, of the Baptist church, who also faces a possible death sentence, and two of the lesser defendants—Ladislav Ivanov Ppov, 36, of the Pentecost church and Alexander Georgiev Zahariev, 65, of the Methodist church.

Their attorneys described them as "poor ordinary people" who came into the financial grip of American missions which supplied three-fourths of the Bulgarian Protestant church budget.

Arrested Georgiev's attorney for Chernov, asserted that "Protestant ministers in Bulgaria had collected information, transmitted their reports to foreign missions and been paid by these missions 'for the past 70 or 80 years.

Georgiev said that defendant pastors did not realize the situation had changed, he said, and were not aware what they were doing was espionage against the new state.

Georgiev said that behind the boards of American church missions in Bulgaria "stands American trusts and big magnates."

U. S. State Department voice broadcasts on the trial have been beamed to Europe and other parts of the world.

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(AP)—Means Associated Press
(NCA)—Means Newspaper Enterprise Ass'n.

PRICE 5c COPY

Bobcats Take
Championship
With 52-30 Win

Coach Jack Hopkins' Bobcats turned loose last night to completely outclass the Texarkana Razorbacks and take the western division District 7-A basketball championship and a bid to the state tournament.

While a couple of Razorbacks held Hope's Buddy Sutton to three points the rest of the boys scored almost at will to rack up a smashing 52 to 30 victory. It was their third straight win over Texarkana. Apparently the Bobcats, a hot and cold team during the season play, really hit their stride at Nashville. Against the Porkers they hit from the start piling up a 31 to 14 halftime lead. The second half was no better for the Texarkana lads.

Perhaps the outstanding man of the game was Hope's Dale Hockett. Although usually guarded by a couple of men Hockett racked in 15 points. James McGee was the key to scoring at the pivot post.

A ten-man all district team included Hockett, Sutton and McGee of Hope, Glover of Arkadelphia, Anderson of Nashville, Easley of Texarkana, Edwards of Texarkana, Stoval of Prescott, Ford of Dierks and Lookadoo of Arkadelphia.

The championship trophy was presented to the Hope team by district president, K. B. Davis. In the preliminary game Nashville took Arkadelphia 24 to 21 for third place shot.

Hope
Hockett 15
Sutton 7
McGee 11
Sutton 3
Nix 10
Bruner 0
Hammons 4
Mitchell 0

Texarkana
Easley 9
Yaden 8
Black 0
Edwards 4
McMellon 5
Phillips 4
Price 0

Charges Filed
Against
Woman

Miami, Fla., March 4 —(AP)—New and tougher charges have been filed against the St. Louis "mystery woman" who is believed to have helped Clyde Milton Johnson, bank bandit suspect, make good a spectacular escape from jail here Tuesday.

The U. S. district attorney's office filed charges of "accessory after the fact" against Billie Frances Johnson, described as a 25-year-old brunette.

Assistant U. S. District Attorney Ernest H. Duhalme explained the new warrant "is much stronger of force than aiding and assisting."

He said the charge carried one half the maximum jail sentence and one half the maximum fine levied against Johnson if he is convicted of the \$43,000 robbery of a Memphis, Tenn., bank.

Johnson slipped past the night jailer about 6:45 a. m. (EST) Tuesday when he was mopping up spilled milk. The ex-convict took the jail elevator from the 21st to the 19th floor and escaped.

The woman is believed the same who tried to arrange to pay Johnson \$50,000 bond shortly after his arrest.

Johnson and John Eugene Anderson were quietly arrested by a squad of FBI agents as they sipped a cocktail in a Miami Beach hotel lounge. Two women, one Anderson's wife, also were arrested and held as material witnesses.

The pair was to be returned to Memphis to face trial for the hold-up and Johnson escaped only 45 minutes before a U. S. marshal was to get him for the Memphis trip.

The Miami Beach Florida Sun said that Johnson had 8 hours and 52 minutes of freedom before an official pickup order was issued by the sheriff's office.

The newspaper said it wasn't until 3:30 p. m. (EST) Tuesday that police in greater Miami area were notified officially of the accused bank bandit's escape.

Lieut. R. R. McCarty of the Hialeah police department was quoted by the Sun as saying that the first official word he received was at 11:29 a. m. Wednesday—more than 24 hours after Johnson's escape.

Crawford H. Carson, agent in charge of the Miami FBI, had no comment to make on the late notifications, the paper said.

Demands Life
for Four of
Ministers

Sofia, Bulgaria, March 4 —(AP)—The Communist prosecutor today demanded the death penalty for the top four of 15 Protestant churchmen who are charged with espionage and treason against Bulgaria.

Shriners Urged
to Attend
Banquet Here

All Shriners of Southwest Arkansas are urged to attend here Thursday, March 10 at the VFW hut near Hope. The dinner is free to all Shriners presenting their 1949 Scimitar Temple card and wearing a fez.

Planning to attend are asked to mail a card today. Deputy Baber, B & B Grocery in Hope. Purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers.

Little Known
About Change
in Russia

London, March 5. —(AP)—Diplomats throughout the world speculated today over whether Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov of Russia has been fired or promoted.

Moscow said only that the tough little and the egotistical, but only to Prime Minister Stalin yesterday, had been "released" from his duties as foreign minister.

Policy makers and little men alike wondered whether the major Kremlin shift would quiet or inflame the East-West cold war.

A source close to the British foreign office noted that Molotov apparently still remains deputy prime minister and member of the ruling politburo which determines Russia's policy. He said he believed the move would strengthen Molotov's position, making him some sort of "general supervisor of foreign policy."

The first reaction of many European newspapers was that Molotov had been fired for failing to block the anti-Communist North Atlantic pact and the European Recovery Program. British officials circles speculated more cautiously that the aging Stalin might be getting "chafed" to hand over power to his chief deputy.

Some British diplomats, disillusioned after four years of fruitless dealings with Russian leaders, privately were skeptical that Molotov's shift meant a change to a softer Soviet policy.

The semi-official French news agency said the Kremlin shift "consider the Kremlin shakeup 'essentially an internal affair.'"

Sen. Marcel Plaisant, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the French council of the republic predicted a change in Soviet policy but declined to speculate whether it would be harder or softer to the west.

Paul Reynaud, wartime premier of France, said the Kremlin shift "may be considered as a sign of change in Soviet foreign policy at which the friends of peace can only rejoice."

Italian reaction was mixed, like that of all Europe. An informed source close to the Italian foreign office said Russian hostility toward the West "will not change greatly."

Taft to Lead
Fight Against
Labor Bill

Washington, March 5 —(UP)—Sen. Robert A. Taft, (R-O) promised today to lead a GOP battle in 1949 against the new labor bill.

The Democratic majority on the senate labor committee drowned out Republicans protests yesterday and approved the measure just as President Truman asked. The vote was 69-24, with 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans voting.

Taft, Republican party spokesman on domestic issues, told news men he believed a senate majority could be mustered to send the bill back to the committee.

But what the use of sending a bill back to that committee? he asked.

He referred to the fact that the group is controlled by administration supporters. But he expects a different outcome on the senate floor where a good many southern Democrats may support moves to retain features of the Taft-Hartley act.

The administration measure would repeal the Taft-Hartley law and replace it with an "improved" version of the old Wagner labor relations act.

GOP members of the senate labor committee are trying to reach agreement on a series of amendments to be proposed to the administration measure. However, Taft doubted that they could agree on everything.

In other congressional developments, Filibuster—administration senators were summoned to conference today to see whether the anti-filibuster drive can be salvaged. But with Southern Democrats and Republicans teaming up against any attempt to choke off the week-end debate, some administration sources had just about given up on an anti-filibuster curb this session. Senate Democratic Leader Scott W. Lucas of Illinois, however, scheduled an unusual Thursday night session in an effort to reach a showdown in the determined fight with southerners over the issue.

Dixie Victory
on Filibuster
Appears Certain

Washington, March 5. —(AP)—Southern Democrats—aided by some Republicans—had the administration on the run today in its effort to force speedy senate action on a filibuster-cripping rules change.

Senator Russell (D-Ga) predicted certain Dixie victory in a battle which may or may not come up next week over an effort to cut short talk by a debate limited closure petition.

Russell told reporters the southern opponents of President Truman's civil rights program can count on 58 votes to reverse a possible ruling by Vice President Barkley that a gag can be applied to talk about a senate motion. The motion involved was offered Monday by Senator Lucas (D-Ill) to bring up the rules change. That change would make it possible for two-thirds of the senate to halt the kind of filibuster that's going on now.

As evidence that Russell might not be far wrong, senate leaders moved to rally crumbling Democratic support behind a move that may mean life or death to President Truman's civil rights program.

Senator J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, the democratic national chairman, called northern and western party members into a huddle before the senate teed off on its sixtieth day of filibustering.

Lucas wouldn't admit defeat in his efforts to bring up the proposition.

But an Associated Press poll showed 43 senators publicly committed to vote against and only 19 publicly favoring any ruling up to now. The 43 are only six less than a majority, if all the votes are counted.

Of those who said they would vote, in effect, to keep the southern filibuster rolling, 19 were Republicans.

Rept controls expire March 31. President Truman has asked them continued. If the filibuster continues, he will be faced with the choice between repeals and rules if the filibuster continues.

Lucas said a closure petition will be filed early next week. If the filibuster goes on, Lucas said, he will give the southerners a chance to talk at night sessions in what would be billed as an effort to bring them to physical exhaustion.

Angry Soviet
Mission Leaves
American Zone

By BRAK CURRY
Frankfurt, Germany, March 4 —(AP)—Eight angry Russian soldiers ran down the Red flag over the Russian repatriation mission headquarters today and roared off to the Soviet zone of Germany in a motor convoy.

Russians were grim-faced as they left the building in which they had been blockaded for two days by American military police. One Russian truck driver spat at an American girl bystander as he left the mission grounds.

The stage of the big yellow house finally forced Russian headquarters in Berlin to order the mission to comply with American orders to leave the U. S. occupation zone.

But Russian authorities struck out quickly. They ordered U. S. graves registration men to leave the Soviet zone at once. A grave search unit of four U. S. soldiers arrived in Berlin from the Soviet zone last night under escort of a Russian officer. Two other Americans were in Berlin voluntarily on a holiday when the Russian order came.

Continued on page two

Livestock Show
Parade Committee
Announced

Rae Luck, chairman of the Parade committee of the Third District Livestock Show Association, today announces the membership of the parade committee. They are: Rae Luck, chairman, Clyde Coffee, Bill Wray, Royce Smith, Buddy Evans, Andrew Andrews, Early Archer, Jr., Luther Holloman.

Other Nations
May Join
With Bloc

Washington, March 5 —(AP)—Several more countries may soon join the North Atlantic alliance talks despite growing Russian attacks on the security project.

Diplomatic officials foresaw swift action in that direction to protect the U. S. staff against the Russian information to the U. S. and third secretary of the U. S. S. R. secretariat there, assigned to the Manhattan office of the U. N. United Nations sources agreed that he is a Russian national, but described him as an employee of the U. N. secretariat itself.

In either case a question of immunity from arrest might arise. While the United States has not passed an immunity law to protect the U. N. staff against arrest as diplomats generally are protected, it has authorized a U. N. headquarters in New York and recognized it as an international zone.

There have been overtures in congress against the possibility of subversives getting into this country through the U. N. gate.

The arrests were made by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents who had followed Miss Coplon to New York yesterday afternoon. She had been under suspicion for some time. The Justice Department said.

When arrested, Miss Coplon had in her purse a flat package containing typewritten summaries of information that came into confidential documents involving security data and restricted information.

The Justice Department announcement, without going into details, implied that the material taken to New York was actually valuable.

It said that as soon as the FBI reported Miss Coplon's "suspected affiliations" the attorney general assured against the misuse of restricted information coming into the possession of the department.

The department said a close investigation of Miss Coplon grew out of information developed in the government's regular loyalty check. It added that she had been previous clandestine meetings between her and Gubitchev. She was kept under constant watch yesterday, the department went on when she was observed in actions that "paralleled her activities prior to other meetings with Gubitchev."

Both are being held in New York. Since Gubitchev is a member of the United Nations secretariat, the matter is being discussed with the department of officials and officials of the secretariat.

Suspicion was first aroused during a federal employee loyalty check, Clark said. An extensive investigation followed.

The FBI under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover, found out that clandestine meetings were being held by Miss Coplon and Gubitchev.

Yesterday when Miss Coplon left for New York she was trailed by FBI agents.

She and Gubitchev arrived at what appeared to be their appointed meeting place, 193rd street and Broadway, at 7:23 p. m.

For a moment the two men avoided direct contact, while they employed the numerous techniques used to "detect" spotters, the FBI said.

They finally "effected a contact" when both dashed aboard a bus near 42nd street, the report continued.

The arrest was made on Third avenue between 14th and 15th street.

Just what type of information she had with her at the time of her arrest was not disclosed, other than that it was from confidential documents involving security data and restricted information.

The charges against the two, filed in New York, were of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States pertaining to the removal of government records and defrauding the U. S. of the faithful and impartial service of Miss Coplon.

U. S. Woman, Russian UN
Delegate Arrested for
Stealing American Secrets

New York, March 5. —(AP)—A Russian member of the United Nations staff and a woman employee of the Department of Justice were arrested in New York last night charged with stealing American secrets.

Moroney General Tom Clark, announcing the arrest today, identified them as:

Judith Coplon, 27, formerly of Brooklyn, N. Y., a Justice Department employee since 1943. Her exact job was not given but official said it was a minor one.

Valentine A. Gubitchev, 32, the Justice Department's announcement conflicted with reports from U. N. officials on Gubitchev's exact status. The announcement here called him "a member of the Russian information" to the U. N. and third secretary of the U. S. S. R. secretariat there, assigned to the Manhattan office of the U. N. United Nations sources agreed that he is a Russian national, but described him as an employee of the U. N. secretariat itself.

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Molotov Ousted
in Big Russian
Shakeup

Moscow, March 5 —(AP)—Andrei Vishinsky replaced Vyacheslav M. Molotov as foreign minister today in a momentous shift of leadership in international relations.

Russia's second most important official in dealings with the outside world, foreign trade Minister A. I. Mikoyan, also was replaced by his deputy, M. A. Menshikov, today Vishinsky also had been Molotov's deputy.

These dramatic changes—the most important in the Soviet union since Molotov took over the foreign ministry a decade ago from Maxim Litvinoff—were announced by the presidium of the supreme soviet, the highest legislative body, in a statement which left unanswered a host of questions.

Appearing on the back pages of morning newspapers under the headline, "Announcements," it said:

"The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R. has freed, deputy chairman of the council of ministers, Comrade V. M. Molotov, from duties as minister of foreign affairs and designated as minister of foreign affairs Comrade A. V. Vishinsky."

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the U. S. S. R. freed, deputy chairman of the council of ministers of the U. S. S. R., Comrade A. I. Mikoyan, from duties as minister of foreign trade and designated as minister of foreign trade, Comrade M. A. Menshikov.

There was no hint as to what new jobs Molotov and Mikoyan might be taking. It said nothing about their being relieved of their duties as deputy chairmen of the council of ministers. On the contrary it used those titles in referring to them.

Diplomats in Lake Success, London, Washington and other world capitals were dumbfounded by the unheralded change. They expected that it might be preceded by a statement from the secretary to Molotov's successor, Prime Minister Josef Stalin, or that it meant that Molotov had been given the boot in order to execute a far-reaching change in Soviet policy in the cold war with the West.

(Those who believed that Vishinsky's appointment might mean a change of policy or a more vigorous change in tactics in carrying out the policy of the Soviet Union, the Russian has not been well in the cold war.

Only yesterday the Soviet suffered a diplomatic defeat when Norway joined the Washington negotiations for a North Atlantic Defense pact and Denmark moved in the same direction. The Marshall Plan has been marking up successes despite the most bitter Soviet opposition, and the blockade has been turning against the Russians.

Molotov, a stalwart in the Communist party from its earliest days and an insider almost from the first, always has been known as a "Stalin man." He was premier from 1930 to 1941 when Stalin took over the post himself in the war emergency.

Molotov, who will be 59 on March 9, took over his foreign ministry from Litvinoff on Jan. 3, 1939, just before the outbreak of the war. He handled Russia's diplomacy through the difficult years before Russia was invaded by Germany in 1941, during the war and through the post-war years.

Throughout, Vishinsky, who is 63, was his right-hand man. He was named by Stalin as his successor before Russia was invaded by Germany in 1941, during the war and through the post-war years.

Mikoyan became commissar of foreign trade in 1926 and as such became one of Russia's best known officials abroad. He is 53 and his successor Menshikov is slightly younger.

Menshikov was appointed deputy minister of foreign trade in September last year.

Housing
Meeting at
Texarkana 9th
Policeman
Saves Woman
From Death

The Federal Housing Administration made arrangements, through the cooperation of the Texarkana Real Estate Board, to hold a conference of representatives of the building industry and financial institutions in connection with the new economy. Housing Finance Corporation, which was organized in 1940, met at the Grinn Hotel next Wednesday March 9, at 1 p. m.

Several representatives of the Little Rock office, including H. P. Burns, chief underwriter, W. M. VanValkenburg, chief architect, E. McCoy, chief valuator, and Clay E. Smith, state director, will be present for the conference; as well as J. R. Burnside of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and J. M. Hamilton, Loan Guaranty Officer, Veterans Administration. They will conduct a full discussion of the "Economy Housing Program for 1949" stressing the need for greater economy in construction of housing for veterans and other families in the lower income groups.

A full explanation of the details of the "1949 Economy Housing Program" as well as an open discussion of the ways and means of building and financing lower-priced housing will be conducted by personnel of this office and representatives of interested groups including lending institutions.

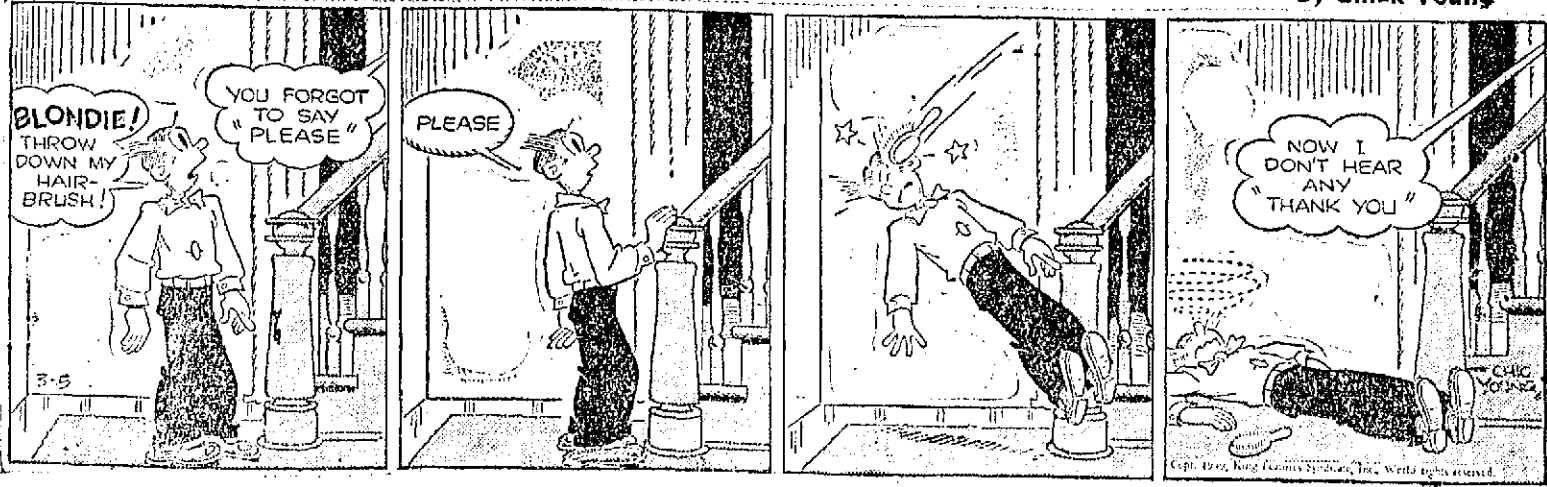
Hope business heads and employees are urged to attend this important meeting.

The Baltimore Bullets, defending champions of the Basketball Association of America, are the oldest team in the league, averaging 23.4 years per man. They were defeated by the Denver Nuggets of the National Basketball League make road trips in their own chartered airplane.

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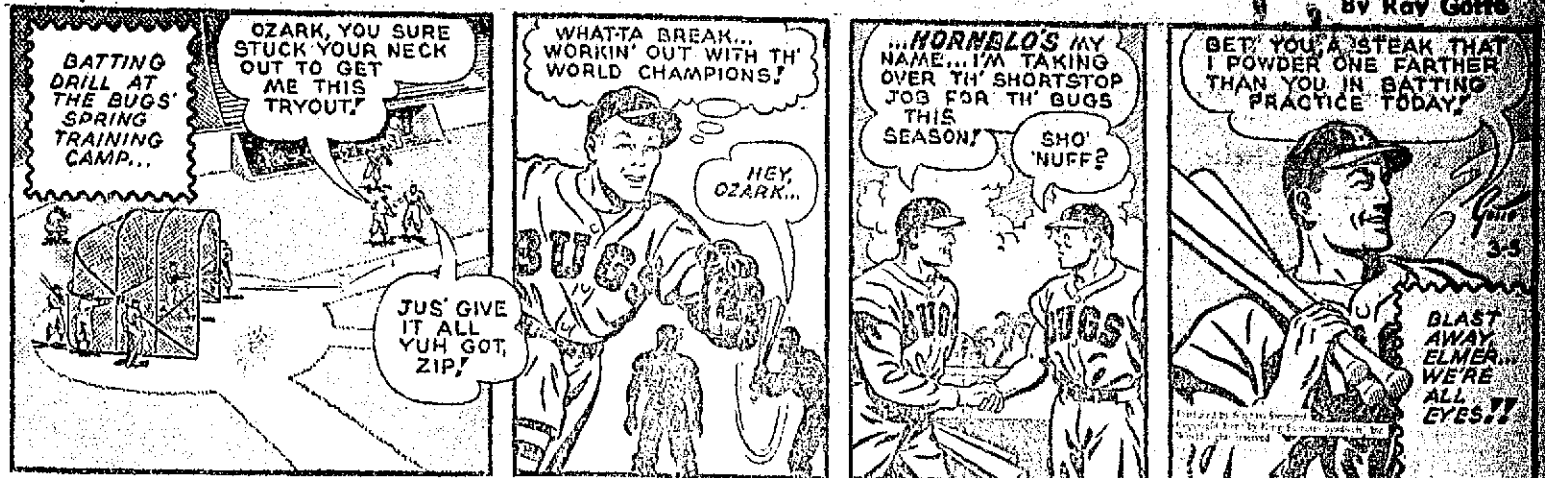
BLONDIE

By Chick Young



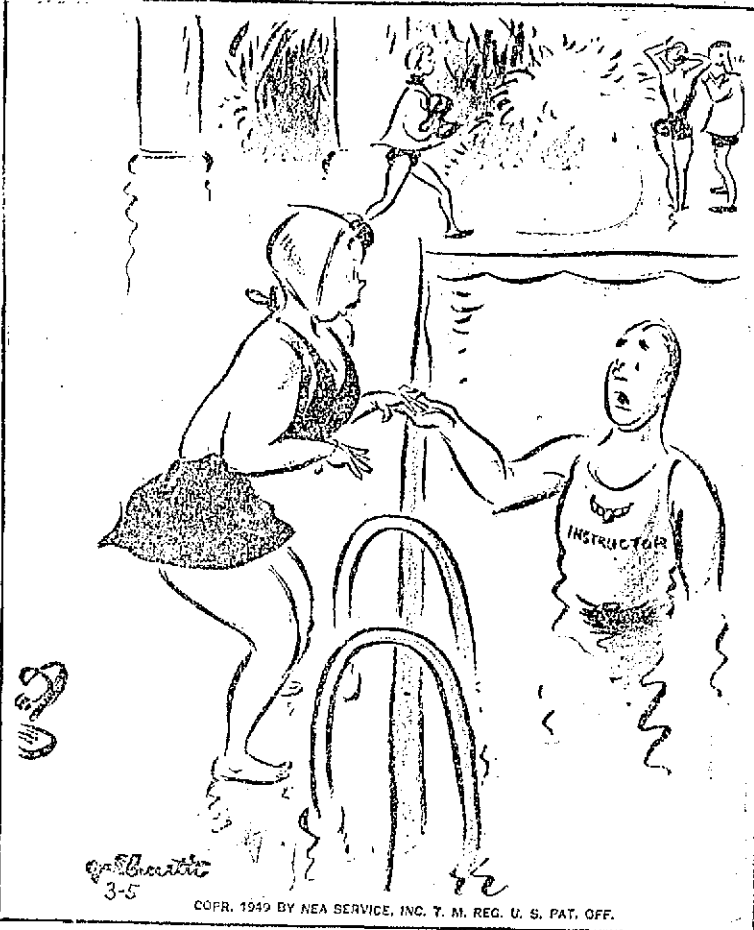
OSZARK IKE

By Roy Gatto



SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



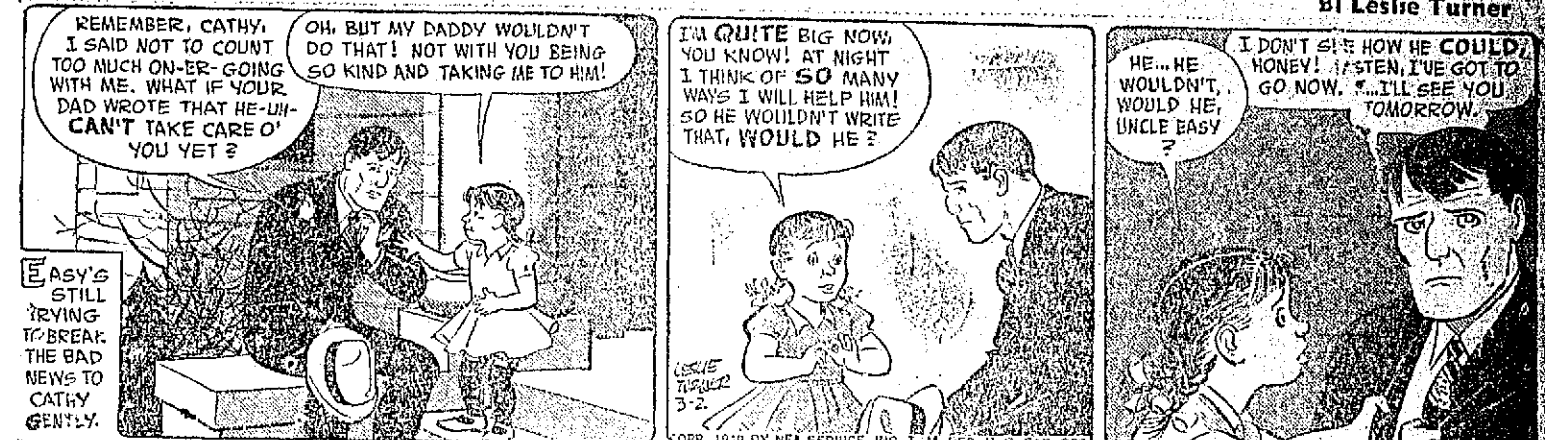
VIC FLINT

By Michael O'Malley & Ralph Lane



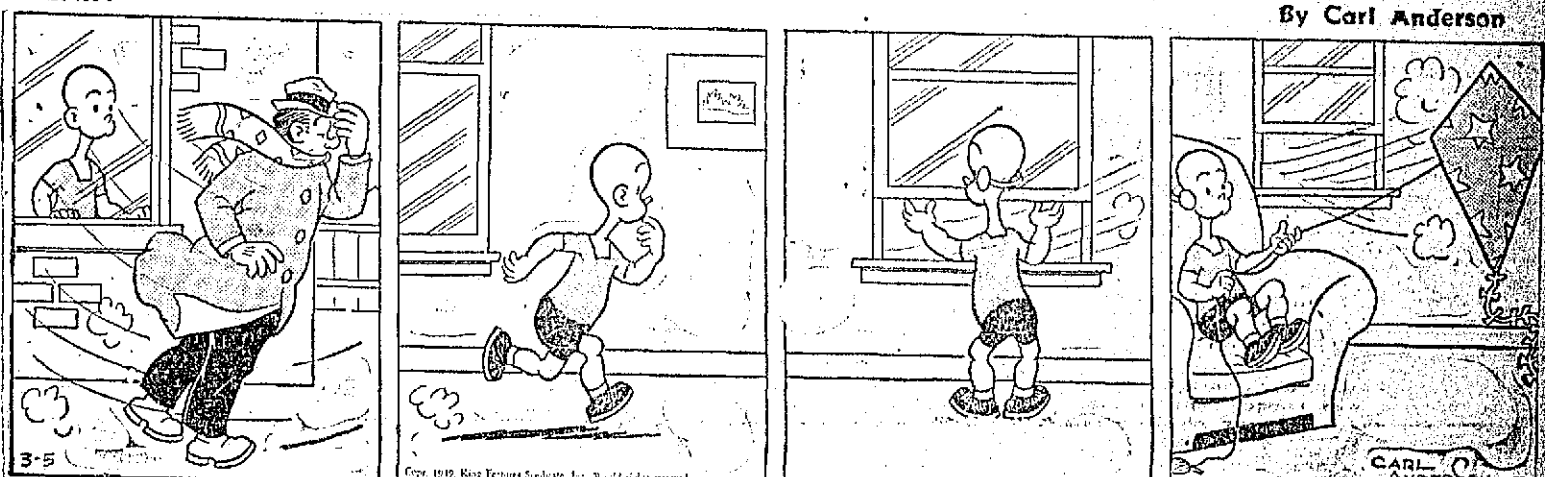
WASH TUBS

By Leslie Turner



HENRY

By Carl Anderson



FUNNY BUSINESS

By Herschberger



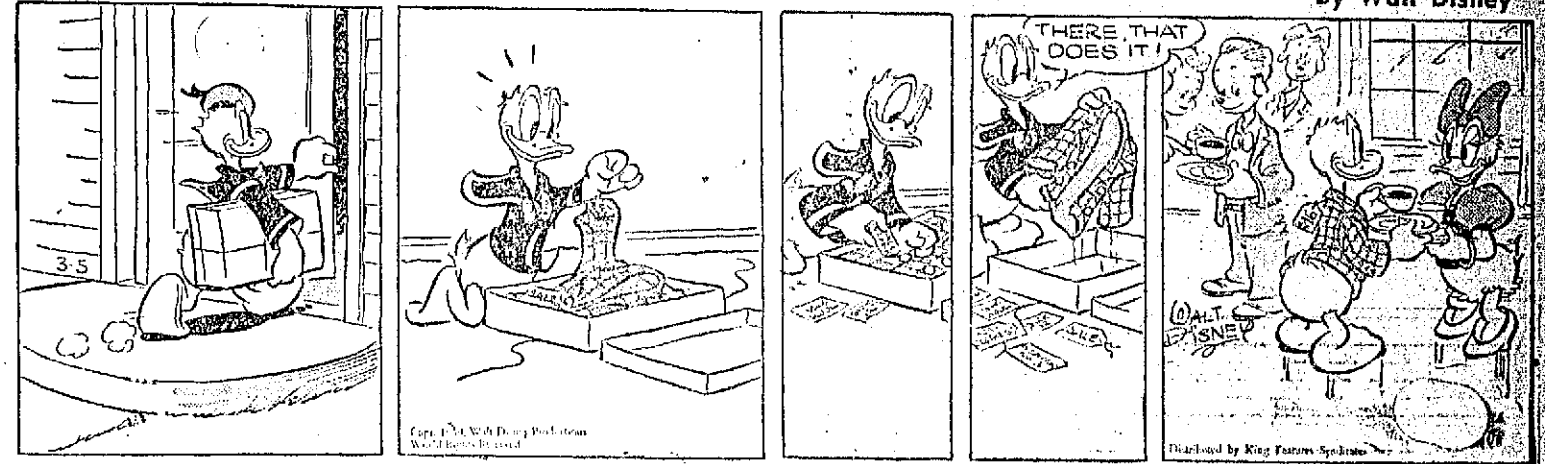
FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Blosser



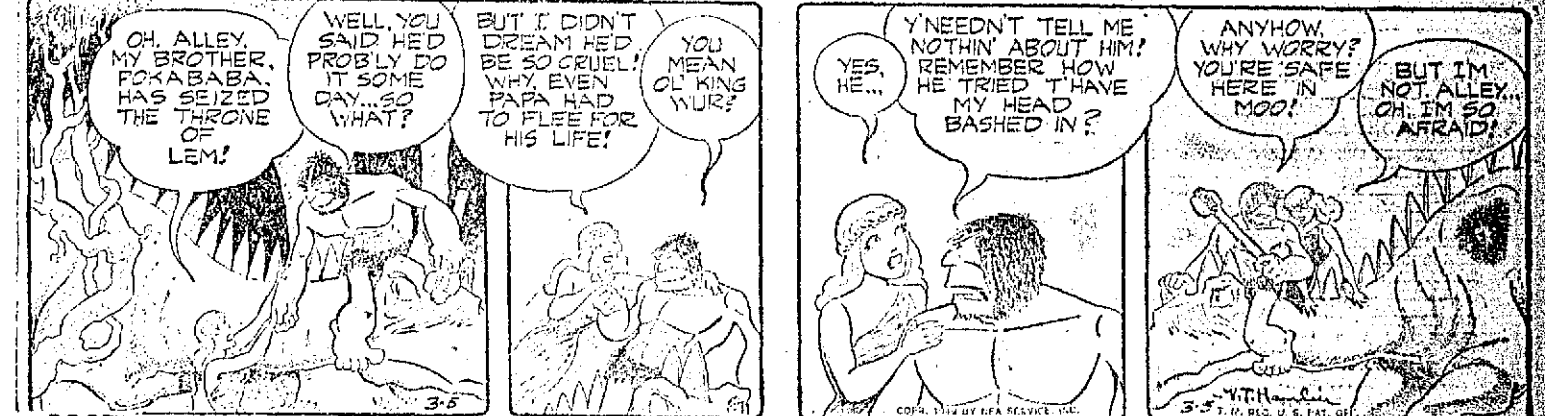
DONALD DUCK

By Walt Disney



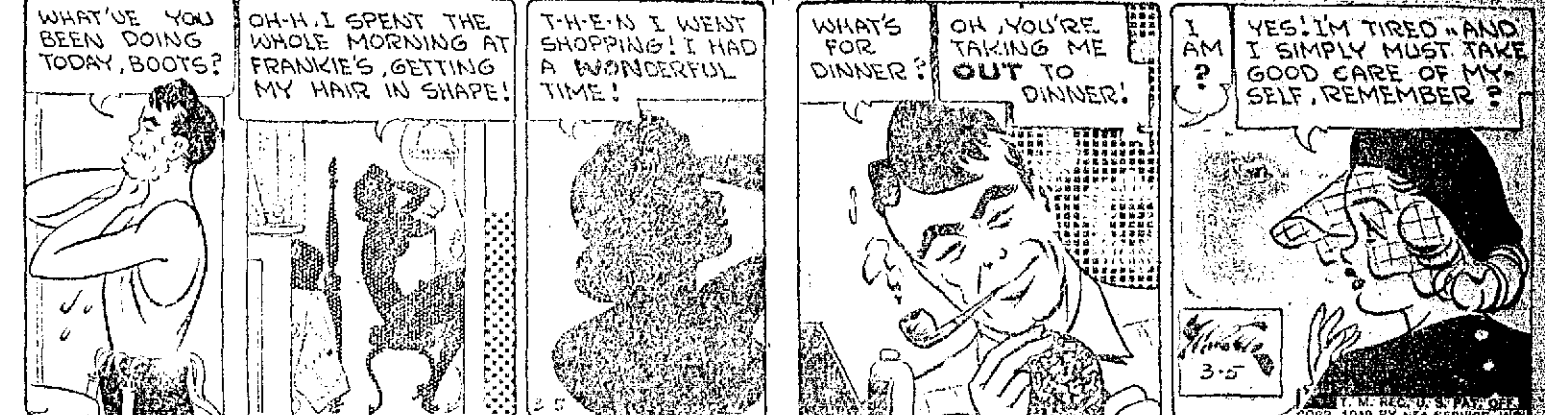
ALLEY OOP

By V. T. Hamlin



BOOTS

By Edgar Martin



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With Major Hoople



BUGS BUNNY

